

***Leptodactylus lauramiramae*, a distinctive new species of frog
(Amphibia: Anura: Leptodactylidae) from Rondônia, Brazil**

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Abstract.—A new species of frog is described from Rondônia, Brazil. The new species shares most features with the genus *Leptodactylus*, although externally it resembles species of *Physalaemus* as much as species of *Leptodactylus*. The new species is provisionally assigned to the genus *Leptodactylus*, the definition of which must be expanded to include an areolate belly and small osteoderms lying above the vertebral column in order to accommodate the new species. The new species is known only from a single cerrado enclave in a predominantly Amazonian rainforest landscape.

One of us (RIC) participated in two POLONOROESTE herpetological expeditions organized and led by P. E. Vanzolini (Vanzolini 1986), Museu de Zoologia, Universidade de São Paulo. On one of these expeditions, RIC collected three adult females of a frog that appeared to belong to the genus *Leptodactylus* but clearly did not belong to any recognized species in the genus.

Upon external examination of the specimens in the laboratory, WRH was not convinced the frogs belonged to the genus *Leptodactylus*, as they bore as much external resemblance to some members of the genus *Physalaemus* as to members of the genus *Leptodactylus*.

We delayed further research on these specimens in the hopes that additional materials would become available, particularly adult males and tadpoles. The available morphological, myological, and osteological data indicate that the new species is most closely related to the genus *Leptodactylus*, although it has two features previously unknown for the genus. We provisionally include the new species in the genus *Leptodactylus*, realizing that additional data may overturn the generic allocation.

Methods

Museum abbreviations follow Leviton et al. (1985). MZUSP 132773 was cleared-and-stained using the double-staining technique for cartilage and bone (Dingerkus and Uhler 1977). Measurement data were taken with a dial calipers to the nearest 0.1 mm following the definitions in Heyer et al. (1990). Stereo x-ray negatives were prepared for MZUSP 132772.

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Fig. 1**

Holotype.—MZUSP 132772, an adult female from Brazil, Rondônia, north end of the town of Vilhena, km 16, 12°43'S, 60°07'W (coordinates for Vilhena). Collected by Ronald I. Crombie on 6 December 1985.

Paratypes.—MZUSP 132773, an adult female (cleared-and-stained) collected 4 December 1985; USNM 509521, an adult female collected 6 December 1985. Both specimens collected by Ronald I. Crombie at the type locality.

Diagnosis.—*Leptodactylus lauramiramae*

